

THE PRIDE PARADE ON HAMILTON

PLANET

Parenthood

by Carolyn Lewis

BETWEEN RIGHT & WRONG

I am a rule-follower: I obey traffic laws; if I am given extra change, I return it; I don't cheat on my taxes. I also try to get my kids to follow the rules. When they cut in line at the slide, I guide them to the back of the line. I encourage them to share and to take turns.

However, this is becoming more and more difficult in our society. While I am directing my kids to the back of the line, other parents are encouraging theirs to squeeze ahead. When we turn in a dollar found on the ground, the clerk says to them, with a wink, "you keep it, I won't tell." We sit in traffic longer because of the cars that whiz by in the break down lane instead of merging. My kids are learning that those who cheat get what they want.

I must admit I am learning that lesson as well. If I can submit a petition, with nearly half of the signatures on it invalid, and nearly a third of them based on big whopping lies, then what do I get? 10 more days! I get 10 more days to do what I couldn't do the first time? And the ONLY reason I got 10 more days is BECAUSE so many of them were thrown out the first time! How do I explain that to my kids? I am trying to teach my children the importance of principles, but the rewards of doing the right thing sometimes seem to pale in comparison to the rewards of taking what you can get.

For example, Janet and I have been searching for some reasonably priced, but nice, porch chairs. I found some the other day that were perfect - exactly what I was looking for and at a very fair price. I was in the process of paying for them when I noticed some pamphlets by the cash register that got my attention. I looked around and found anti-gay literature in the store. Very disturbed, I asked about the literature and got an answer that disturbed me further. I very politely stated my position, and said I could not support those ideas with my money, and left. Without the chairs.

But this is what I, and my family, do have. We have principles. We know what the right thing to do is, and we do our best to carry it out. For instance, when I volunteered one day to collect statements from those folks who wanted their names removed from the petition, it was made clear to me that things had to be done right. Still, when a woman offered to print her husband's name on the paper instead of having someone return the next day when he would be home, I was tempted. After all, I already had his signature. I only needed him to print his name at the top of the page. Who would know? "Wink" Well, I would know. And that would make me no better than the petition circulators.

So I will merge when I'm supposed to and we will sit in line longer. And my kids will have to wait longer because someone pushes by them in line. And our family will sit on the steps instead of chairs for now. And we will pound the pavement to end this petition drive once and for all. And though it may take a little longer, we will get to the head of the line, and this petition will be defeated, and along the way our children will learn the difference between right and wrong.

Editors note:

It was, and they did. Carolyn, thanks for your help.

Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the basis listed in the anti-discrimination statement on page 8, and asks that organizations or individuals which request VFP to publish information about their events maintain a similar policy.

RAGS TO RICHES
TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, I would like to share an unusual story with you about my financial situation. In my household I share my space with 3 furry friends. One of the dogs, in particular has a tendency to get into mischief at times. This particular canine happens to be my least favorite of the pack. Anyway, I had \$300 dollars in the house in large bills. Well, what you would consider large bills. At this time, the U.S. Government no longer prints LARGE bills, in my opinion. The maximum is a Ben Franklin. I typically do not keep a lot of money in the house, but on this rare occasion, it happened to be there. Actually, I had given the money to my girlfriend. So, technically it wasn't my money anymore.

I rose one morning, doing my habitual routine. Time to make the coffee. Open the canister with coffee beans. Grind, grind, perk, perk. Dogs are leaping at the door. Their thought bubbles say: "Let me out!! I need be sure there are no predators in my territory, coast clear, no one has entered my domain. A few birds to chase, nothing out of the ordinary. The next stop will be my food bowl a little nip of water, off to a good start."

Don't even think these pooches would be retrieving the newspaper. I haven't figured out what they do to earn their keep. I retrieve my own newspaper and take my coffee with me outside. You would think this would be a normal day. The sun is shining on my new patio. The dew in the morning grass is reflecting the sunlight. The leaves have just started to emerge on the branches. Ah, home sweet home.

Next action to be taken would be to go get your shower. Right? On the way thru the kitchen... Oh Great!!! The dog threw up. So much for a pleasant morning. I really don't want to deal with this. Get it over with. Grab the paper towels and scoop this...wait what is this dog sick from? Did he eat a milk carton, again? Why can't this dog just be normal?

Upon closer examination, I notice that part of this mess includes a five dollar bill. Why would he eat a five dollar bill? Oh no!...it's a fifty dollar bill! He ate Ulysses S. Grant! You have got to be kidding me. This is the \$300! Now, I have to sort out the bills and decide how to remove the ...um... waste. I proceed to count out what's left. Some are torn in half. Some frayed at the edges. Total amount...\$240.

Now, of course, I go in the bedroom..."HONEY, you're not going to believe what YOUR dog has done." That got her up. She joins in for the soaking, drying and taping of the pieces to create what looks like currency. It's my job to take the bills to the bank. The cashier asks, "Would you like nicer bills?" She doesn't really inquire how the bills got "unnice". (I suppose I should tell you, the \$60 was removed prior to the dog's feast, which I was glad to find out.)

Even with interest rates being exceptionally low and the market being exceptionally volatile, it still doesn't make much sense to hoard large amounts of cash. There has got to be a better way.

Denise McKelvey is a Financial Advisor for American Express Financial Advisors, Inc. located at 7248 Tilghman St. in Allentown. Please mail your questions or send e-mail to <Denise.M.McKelvey@AEXP.com> Information provided within this column may not be appropriate for your specific financial situation or dog.

PFLAG LV GETS GRANT

PFLAG LV has been awarded a grant of \$1550 from the National PFLAG organization to support GLBT youth issues. PFLAG will use the money to purchase and place pro-Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender books and periodicals in school and public libraries.

HOT NEWS

ACCO

ACCO, A Chorus Celebrating Women, has named Meg Deak Artistic Director for the 2002-2003 season. Deak, a singer with ACCO, has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Moravian College and a Master's of Creative Arts from Hahnemann. ACCO's traditional Winter Solstice Concert will be December 21 at Christ Lutheran Church in Allentown. To auditioning for ACCO call 610-434-5074. Ability to read music not requirement.

EQUAL@agere systems

Equal@agere is an Employee Resource Partner group supporting the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, & Allies employees at Agere Systems and surrounding communities. Equal@agere meets on the 2nd or 4th Friday of each month. Contact person: <angelis@agere.com>. For general questions & communication <equal@agere.com>.

GLOSS SCHEDULE

The summer schedule for GLOSS, the Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society, is in effect. Volleyball is Tuesdays at 6:30pm. Tennis on Sundays at 3pm at the Muhlenberg College courts. Racquetball on Tuesdays at 8pm and Saturdays at 9pm at the Allentown Racquet Club. GLOSS welcomes new members. For more information and locations contact GLOSS at 610-434-2966, email: Info@gloss.org or on the web at www.gloss.org.

HAVEN

HAVEN, the GLBT youth group of the Unitarian Universalist Church, will be holding a facilitator training session on Saturday, October 19, 9am to 3pm at UUCLV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem. If you are over 25 & are interested in becoming a facilitator, please contact the Steering Committee for an interview. Criminal child abuse & background checks are required.

HAVEN One, for gay lesbian, bisexual, questioning & allied youth between the ages of 14-20, meets every Wednesday from 7-9 pm at the UUCLV. HAVEN Two, for GLBTQA young adults between the ages of 18-24, meets every Wednesday from 8-10 pm at the UUCLV. For more info, call 610-868-2153 or email havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com.

VFP IS 4 YEARS OLD

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BIG BROTHERS /SISTERS PRO-GAY POLICY

After Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBSA) made it official last month that it will not discriminate against gay or lesbian volunteers, the group has become a target for some conservative religious groups.

It is up to pro-tolerance people in every community to be sure that Big Brothers / Big Sisters does not suffer funding shortages as a result of their pro-tolerance policy. VFP suggests local groups consider donations to this organization when they have regular events that generate funds.

GLSEN MEETING

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network) will resume monthly meetings on Monday, September 9 at Seager Student Union, Muhlenberg College, 7:00pm. Meetings are held the second Monday of the month. GLSEN's aim is to combat harassment and discrimination against students and school personnel by helping to create learning environments that affirm the inherent dignity of all students, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity/expression.

The group has plans to do reading for the source list and has been in contact with the national level of the GLSEN organization in preparing for next year. For information, contact Carol Barron at Csbarron21@aol.com or 610-867-6641.

PA-GALA'S NEW WEB SITE

With the help of the incomparable John Early, PA-GALA has finally gotten a web site! The site was used during the effort to fight the petitions, as the one place people could go to actually read the text of the anti-discrimination ordinance. Several people who removed their signatures from the petition told PA-GALA that they did so because they were able to read the ordinance on the web and found out they had been misled by the person who got them to sign. PA-GALA thanks John Early for his work and support not only on the website but as a Primary Day Team leader. Thanks also go to John and Fabio Urbina for data entry, clerical work, and financial support during the fight.

PA-GALA will use the new web site in the future to post election information, action alerts and other important political information. See the website at <www.pa-gala.org>.

Integrity

Integrity is a nonprofit organization of GLBTA Episcopalians. Since the founding in 1974, Integrity has been the leading grassroots voice for the full inclusion of GLBT persons in the Episcopal Church and our equal access to its rites. Yet, advocacy is only one facet of Integrity's ministry.

At the national level and in local chapters and diocesan networks throughout the country, the primary activities are: worship, fellowship, education, communication, outreach, and service to the church. Through Integrity's evangelism, thousands of GLBT people, estranged from the Episcopal Church and other denominations, have returned to parish life.

Although the Episcopal Church has made tremendous strides toward inclusiveness, it still has a long way to go. The local chapter Integrity/Bethlehem -- meets quarterly, has a yearly dialogue with the bishop, supports GLBT laity and clergy in their ministries, and publishes a quarterly newsletter.

Integrity Bethlehem meets quarterly in different member's homes for food and fellowship. To be included -- send an E-mail to integritybeth@ mindspring .com or call 610-758-8642. National website: www.integrityusa.org.

QUOTE

"I appeal to everybody who believes in Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream to make room at the table of brother and sisterhood for lesbians and gay people."

Coretta Scott King--in a statement refuting the misleading use of images of M.L. King by anti-gay petitioners in Dade County, Fla

STEVIE Z APPEARANCES

StevieZ the piano man is playing at the Brick Tavern Inn on Saturday, August 24 from 6:30-9:30PM. and also (Saturdays) Sept. 7, 14, 21. Reservations are strongly recommended, call (215) 538-0865.

Stevie will be at the Mooselounge - Friday, Sept. 13. No cover charge before midnight.

Half of all Stevie's tips are shared with a community organization. For August, the organization is PA-GALA. So please help our community generously. For up to the minute information on StevieZ appearances see his Homepage : http://hometown .aol.com/steviezpnomn/myhomepage/profile.html

PA-GALA and the VFP thank Stevie Z for his enormous help, dedication and his financial contributions to fighting the Allentown anti-rights referendum petitions. In every part of this effort, no matter how hard it was, StevieZ was there doing a great job.

CALENDAR ⁴

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women,
AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA
610.435.8424

AIDSWALK- AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley -
610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/laids
ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and
Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

B&N- Barnes and Noble Gay&Lesbian Book
Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm

BEARS-1st Saturdays Monthly, 8pm, at the
Stonewall/Moose Lounge 610-814-
6916, Mtnbear@fast.net.

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St,
610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>

Enigma Players-- qacres@prolog.net
equal@agere- email: equal@agere.com

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together
610.820.5519

GLEE at Air Products
GLASS-at Lehigh Univ., 610.758.3469

GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet,
<vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization
of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings,
various dates) Newsletter- The Tassle. Write to:
P.O. Box 1952, Allentown PA 18105-1952,
email-GLORAIAPA@AOL.COM

GLOSS- Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports
Society, P.O.Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA
18002 610.434.2966.

GLSEN-Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Education
Network, 610-867-6641, csbarron21@aol.com
GMLV- Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd
Saturdays Monthly 7pm, 610.954.7775

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV -
call: 610-868-215, email: havenyouthgroup@hitmail.com or zinnnes@fast.net

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship,
Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931
Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity- Lesbian and Gay Episcopalians
Family & Friends meet quarterly for fellowship
and fun. 610-758-8642 or integritybeth@mindspring.com

KS-Kindred Spirits- Support, discussion, and
social group for lesbians and bisexual women
Contact : Chris at 610-868-0248, or Donna
at 610.997.00607

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus,
email: lvgmc@hotmail.com, <www.lvgmc.org>
phone 610-366-3320, rehearsals@lvgmc.org:
Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center
Street, Bethlehem

MCC - Metropolitan Community office-424
Center St. Bethlehem, 6 pm Sundays ,
610.954.7775

NCC- Northampton Community College Gay
Lesbian and Bisexual Student Union, call
610.861.5541(#1386)or 882-2531

19th St/Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943

Out There- Students at CedarCrest College
OVOM-LV Documentary Film Org.

PA-GALA - PA Gay and Lesbian Alliance for
Political Action, (Candidate Info Booklet, &
Political Lobbying) For membership: send \$20
to: P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002
610.432.5449 pa-gala.org

PFLAG - LV Parents Families and Friends of
Lesbians and gays 2nd Sundays 3pm at NCC,
Coll. Cntr Rm 134 610.967.5219
<www.users.fast.net/~pflag>

Pride - Pride of the Lehigh Valley, (Pride
Festival) 610.770.6200, email:
<lvpride@hotmail.com>, <www.pride.lv.org>

QuEST - Student group at Lafayette College
Farion Center Box 429 Easton, PA,
<QuEST_Lafayette@hotmail.com>

7 SENSES HEALTH CENTER

at 960 Broadway in Fountain Hill, 610-807-3677 is a full-line
retail health food store, a place for health education and
classes, and a place for health consultation services.

Owner Kathleen Heckler is a Nutritionist and Herbalist
Diploma candidate at the Australasian College, and owner
Robert Roush holds a Ph.D. in Complementary and
Alternative Health Care, and has a certificate in Ayurveda.
Giving expert advice is something the owners take pride in.

The retail store has over 1,400 different items including
vitamins & minerals, herbs, specialty formulas, Ayurveda,
homeopathy, healthy foods and snacks, sports nutrition,
musical instruments, books, CD's and videos.

7 Senses is offering a full fall schedule of classes, including
free lectures, in the areas of Yoga, Reiki, Drumming,
Ayurveda, Meditation, and spiritual pursuits.

Health consultation currently offered includes
Complementary & Alternative Health Consultation services
with a variety of practitioners in the areas of Health Care
Coordination, Massage/Body Work (both Eastern and
Western methods), Reiki, Ayurveda, Unified Energy
Therapy, Reflexology, Kinesiology and Women's Issues
Peer Consultation. Website: www.7senseshealth.com

MICHAEL JAY PHILLIPS

recently opened Massage
Therapy at Body elite, Inc. a
gay owned and operated
massage therapy center at
Body elite, Inc. 3410
Hamilton Boulevard,
Allentown, PA (616)770-
0885. Body elite, Inc. is a
gay-friendly personal
training facility where clients
receive individualized
programs including
resistance training and
stretching. Michael, a
Certified Massage Therapist,
specializes in Swedish and
Deep Muscle Massage.
Both male and female
therapists are available. Call
(610-770-0885 for an
appointment.

Although VFP takes no advertising, we will announce the opening
of any local GLBT-owned or GLBT supportive business

SEPTEMBER 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 MCC Bingo UUCLV HMFF GLOSS	2 RAA	3 GLOSS LVGMC	4 HAVEN	5 ACCO RAA GLOSS	6	7 WDIY GLOSS BEARS PFLAG M Stevie Z
8 FACT SUMMER GAMES	9 RAA GLSEN	10 GLOSS LVGMC MCC	11 HAVEN	12 ACCO RAA GLOSS	13	14 GLOSS GMLV Stevie Z
15 MCC Steel Cho PFLAG B OVOM(V)	16 RAA MCC	17 PFLAG R GLOSS LVGMC	18 HAVEN	19 ACCO RAA PFLAG P GLOSS	20	21 GLOSS WDIY Stevie Z
22 Bingo HMFF UUCLV MCC GLOSS	23 RAA	24 LVGMC GLOSS MCC	25 HAVEN	26 RAA ACCO GLOSS	27	28 GLOSS WDIY
29 Bingo HMFF UUCLV MCC GLOSS	30 RAA					

OCTOBER 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		PFLAG A LVGMC GLOSS	2 HAVEN	3 GLOSS RAA	4	5 PFLAG M WDIY BEARS PFLAG M
6 WDIY HMFF UUCLV MCC Bingo	7 RAA	8 GLOSS MCC LVGMC	9 HAVEN	10 RAA GLOSS	11	12 GMLV MCC GLOSS WDIY
13 MCC HMFF WDIY Bingo	14 RAA	15 LVGMC GLOSS PFLAG R	16 HAVEN	17 RAA GLOSS PFLAG	18	19 WDIY GLOSS HAVEN Training POCONOS DANCE WEEKEND
20 MCC WDIY UUCLV HMFF Bingo	21 MCC RAA	22 GLOSS LVGMC MCC	23 HAVEN	24 RAA GLOSS	25	26 WDIY GLOSS
27 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	28 RAA	29 GLOSS LVGMC	30 HAVEN	31 RAA GLOSS		

HOW THE FIGHT WAS WON & THANK YOU NOTES

In Allentown, petitioners representing Citizens for Traditional Values (CTV), who sought to remove housing, employment and public accommodation rights protections based upon sexual orientation and gender identity from the Human Relations Ordinance failed to get the needed signatures for the referendum to be placed on the November ballot.

The City of Allentown requires a committee of no less than five registered voters to circulate petitions and secure the signatures of 2,000 registered Allentown voters to put a question on an election ballot. Petitioners get sixty-five days to circulate the petitions. The city then has 20 days to determine if the signatures are sufficient.

The process used to fight the referendum in Allentown was unique. The Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Political Action (PA-GALA) recognized that petitioners were getting signatures by using misinformation. The plan was to get accurate information to the public.

PA-GALA mailed a flyer simply stating that the intent of the petition drive was to make it legal to fire or deny housing to people because they were homosexual (thanks go to Allyson Hamm and Roberta Meek for helping Liz Bradbury design the flyer and Scott Lauber, Dan Angelis, Roberta, Liz, Patricia Sullivan, and Allyson for signing the flyer) (thanks to the team who created the computer system to keep track of the mailing and the ten people involved in data entry).

A similar flyer was handed out on Primary Day to thousands of voters by over 70 PA-GALA volunteers at every polling place (thanks to all the volunteers, the seven team leaders and the volunteer organizers for the Primary Day effort) (thanks to Robwin Press for the donation of 10,000 flyers!) (And thanks to the 14 elected and appointed City Officials & Representatives who opposed the referendum, supported the ordinance and allowed us to include their names on the flyer). Flyers were also handed out at churches where anti-gay petitioners got petition signatures (thanks to the twenty people who did this very hard job).

Flyers told voters how to access the PA-GALA web site (thanks to John Early for setting up the web site) where they could read the Anti-Discrimination Ordinance in its entirety. Flyers included a 24/7 phone number where volunteers could answer questions about the mailing or the proposed referendum (thanks to dozens of volunteers who did this phone work). A copy of a legal declaration was enclosed for individuals who felt they had been misled and who wanted their names removed from the petition, with a self-addressed return envelope (thanks go to Attorney Dan Anders of Pepper Hamilton LLP for designing this important declaration and all the other important legal help he gave us), (also thanks to the mailing teams.)

As a follow-up, volunteers called petition signers to let them know their name was filed at City Hall on a petition to remove employment, housing and public accommodation rights from gay men and lesbians (thanks go to the dozens of volunteers who did this very hard job). Many people had no idea what they had signed or that they had signed anything at all. Some signers said they had been told it was about everything from the environment to teaching pro-life in school. More than half said they had been told it was a pro-gay rights petition and had signed because they supported gay rights. Many wanted us to come to their homes so they could sign to have their names removed.

It worked to be honest about the intent of the petition. It turns out that most people in Allentown just don't believe in discrimination. Many people were very angry that they had been misled by the petitioners. Some went straight to City Hall to have their names removed.

When the petitions were reviewed for certification, the city struck the names of 637 people who had sent in removal declarations. The City also found hundreds of people who were not actually Allentown residents, or who were not registered to vote. PA-GALA determined that 42 people had signed the petition more than once. All this now brought the number of signatures way below the required 2000. But the referendum process was interpreted to allow the petitioners ten more days to get additional signatures. They needed 588 good ones.

In the next ten days the petitioners were only able to get 268 valid signatures. PA-GALA jumped into action and contacted those signers. Many of them felt they had also been misled. Over the next five days 67 sent in declarations removing their names. (Thanks to the team of ten people poised at PA-GALA headquarters, who immediately generated the mailing to the amended petition signers) (And thanks to the dozens of people who had to do all the other jobs all over again). At the end of the five day period, nearly half of the new signatures turned out to be invalid. The petition was declared invalid due to lack of signatures.

The count of declarations submitted to the city was 834, the largest number of written complaints the city has ever received about a single organization or business.

CTV and the petitioner's committee decided not to go to court to challenge the use of declarations for removal of signatures. Had they done so, petition circulators would have had to explain under oath why over 800 people signed legal papers saying they were misled.

PA-GALA's success in fighting this referendum sets a national precedent by introducing the use of a declaration for name removal when a petition signer has been misled. Now, other cities and states who are faced with an anti-rights referendum will be able to use the declaration as a measure against petitioner deception.

MORE THANKS...

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To all the financial contributors. To the data people who fixed every computer glitch without being upset and who have created a program for every pro-rights group in the country to use. To the Spanish speaking volunteers who called Spanish speaking signers, to the signers who removed their names and then went to the press, radio and television news to report how they were misled. To those who testified at city council about being misled. To at least eight pro-LGBT ministers who spoke out in many ways. To that nun who blew off a petitioner with a disdainful flip of her hand, I'll never forget that. To the many senior citizens who told us flat out that they wanted to support gay rights and had thought it was a pro-gay petition. To everyone of the signers who wanted their name off who said -- "what those people did should be illegal." To our internet guy who got us every article from here to Cincinnati. To the people who got us the voter registration software. To the folks who brought computers to HQ and left them for others to work on, and to the sweet friends who brought all the food at lunch time every day and that light blub. The list goes on and on and we have to find a way to acknowledge everyone by name. We are working on it.

AFTERWORD

To the community: Trish and I have been very proud to help lead this fight against this hateful petition effort. This was a local effort without support from national organizations, although now that we won, they are breaking down the door to help us.

While working on this issue, we are reminded that 200 or more people worked to achieve this important victory. The gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and our very dear and dedicated allies have demonstrated our enormous unified strength and commitment. We believe in fairness, tolerance, diversity and equality. If we have to do this again, we will be ready and we will be successful. As we have said many times during this effort, if we all work together, we will win. We did, and we did. Thanks.

LEHIGH VALLEY GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, TRAN PRIDE FESTIVAL 20

PRIDE SAYS THANKS & INVITES YOU TO KEEP CELEBRATING

Pride's Mission Statement: Pride's mission is the advancement of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender rights and pride through community outreach, to be achieved through events and activities.

Pride of LV wishes to thank everyone who attended & also those who helped out at the June Pride Festival. It takes a community coming together to make the festival the success it was. The people of Pride encourage you to show your Pride year-round & invite you to attend the 2nd Annual "Weekend Out in the Valley," a 3-day Celebration of National Coming Out Day and the 2nd Annual Pride Golf Tournament.

The Golf Tournament will be held at Shepard Hills Golf Course in Wescosville on Saturday, Sept. 14. Registration is at noon. A \$55 per golfer fee includes use of greens & cart, best ball format, a t-shirt, a course goodie bag, plus a picnic. Prizes & awards will be given. Picnic to immediately follow tournament. Guests not golfing are invited to the picnic for a \$20 fee. Sign-up ends Sept. 2. For more info, contact GolfTournament@PrideLV.org.

Come on out to a Benefit Performance featuring the lovely & talented Miss & Mr. Stonewall on Sunday, Sept. 27 at Stonewall. "A Weekend Out in the Valley" Events will be kicked-off with a festive "Coming Out Dance," sponsored in part by GLOSS. Dance begins at 7pm on Friday, Oct. 11 at Cetronia Fire Hall. Admission is \$10 per person.

Pride's Queer Film Festival is expanding & planning to show a film on Saturday, Oct. 12. The film is undetermined at press time, but if you're interested in participating on the film committee & helping with film selection, contact FilmFestival@pridelv.org.

To finish off the weekend, there will be a book reading & signing by award-winning author, Louise Blum. She will be reading from her book, "You're Not From Around Here, Are You?", which focuses on living as

an out gay parent in small-town America. The book may be purchased at the event which is being held at Barnes & Noble (MacArthur Rd., Whitehall) at 3pm on Sunday, Oct. 13. For more on Blum or her book, visit www.wisc.edu/wisconsinpress/books/3446.htm.

See future VFPS or check Pride's website--www.pridelv.org for more details. To volunteer with Pride contact Volunteers@PrideLV.org.

Pride General Meeting - Thursday, October 24, 2002 7pm Unitarian Church, 424 Center St., Bethlehem



(above) Lehigh County Executive Jane Ervin (R) reads a proclamation for Gay Pride Day after firmly stating that she would personally do everything she could to support the anti-discrimination ordinance.

(below) County Commissioner Dan McCarthy (D) supports the ordinance and congratulates the community.



(right) Allentown City Council member Julio Guridy (D), who voted for the amendment of sexual orientation and gender identity to the ordinance and supported it publicly as far back as 1998, expresses his opposition to the referendum and his strong support of the ordinance.



(at left) Derr, Ervin, Browne, McCarthy, Concannon, Guridy and Kuhn look on as Allentown City Council member Gail Hoover reads Mayor Afflerbach's Proclamation for Gay Pride Day. Hoover (D), who introduced the amendment to the anti-discrimination ordinance said, "We can celebrate because we have passed the most progressive anti-discrimination ordinance in the state and 'at the end of the day,' this ordinance will still stand."

Photos by Liz Bradbury except, Grand Marshall photo by Kristi Wagner



Gail Hoover, Pride Parade Grand Marshall



This picture, taken in five shots from the stage, shows the thousands who paused to listen to Gail Hoover and the other speakers during the parade. Hamm, Steve Black of FA-GALA, yourself and probably just about everyone you know?

SGENDER 2002

B&N GLBT BOOKCLUB

Barnes & Noble GLBT book club meets in the cafe area of the Whitehall store at 7:00 PM, usually on the third Tuesday of the month.

For further information call Barnes & Noble at 610-821-7732. All are welcome, beverages are provided and a good time is had by all!

GAY MEN'S CHORUS FALL SCHEDULE

The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus begins its fall season on August 27, with its 7:00 pm rehearsal at Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem. The Chorus is open to anyone in the GLBT and allied community who sings tenor, baritone, or bass. New members are asked to come at 6:30 for orientation.

This fall's concert, to be held November 16, will feature music for the young and the young-at-heart. "Captain Noah's Floating Zoo" will see the singers in a variety of animal roles and other surprises. This concert will also mark the Chorus debut of their new accompanist, Stevie Z.



(left) State Representative Pat Browne (R), who is a strong advocate for the State Hate Crimes Bill, spoke from the stage after marching in the parade, where he graciously wore every button and banner anyone gave him including a "Gay by God" sticker from MCC's Joe Canto.



(left) Police Chief Stephen Kuhn spoke of his strong support of the safety of the gay Community.

(left) City Controller Frank Concannon (D) greets the crowd after marching in the parade. Frank Concannon is one the GLBT community's long time and best friends. In 1998 while on City Council, Frank was the only Council member to support the inclusion of sexual orientation in the City's anti-discrimination ordinance. Frank, who is 79, recently enjoyed a vacation in Cape May which included parasailing. You gotta love this guy!



GAY DAY AT KNOEBEL'S

The 8th Annual Gay Day at Knoebel's Grove Amusement Park earlier this month was a huge success. The event, put on by "American Mosaic," was attended by hundreds of GLBT people and their families. GLORA helped co-ordinate the Lehigh Valley participants.

Local members of GLORA, LV Gay Men's Chorus, Haven, PA-GALA, and VFP editors joined in a huge pot luck lunch in a large pavilion festooned with rainbow flags. Rides, a giant swimming pool and water slides are all within the shady grove. Knoebel's has 2 of the top 20 wooden roller coasters in the world. Plan for next year.



(left) VFP's Trish Sullivan waves to Sandy Fluck and Bev Morgan who, seconds later, will be hit by a three story splash from the flume boat.



Gay Men's Chorus & GLORA guys Steve Olofson, Nels Swanson, Michael Good, Robert Roush, Gary Schaefer & Chris Miller

(below) About 500 GLBT people from all over the state ate lunch in the pavilion.



(right) Dozens of spectators gathered at every corner to cheer the marchers. This was the 4th annual Pride Parade but the first time on Hamilton St.



(below) County Commissioner Kurt Derr (D) marched in the parade then spoke supportively from the stage.



(above) Over 400 marched in the Pride Parade down Hamilton St. including Chief Kuhn of the Allentown Police and several elected officials.



PRIDE FESTIVAL 2002

g the opening ceremonies. Can you find: MCC's Rev Beth Goudy, Stevie Z the piano man, Human Relations Commissioner Allyson

C HATE MAIL TO LOCAL OFFICIALS

Officials at Allentown City Hall, and people who have written pro-GLBT letters to the editor, have recently received several rounds of hate mail from one or possibly more anonymous senders. Hate email has also been received on-line. Allentown City Council member Gail Hoover, reports that the contents of the letters are not only extremely anti-gay but also virulently racist.

Allentown Human Relations Commissioner and local activist Allyson Hamm also received letters, as have PA-GALA and others at City Hall and in the community. Commissioner Hamm and PA-GALA coordinator Liz Bradbury have both worked with the police detective in charge of the investigation, providing information and leads.

CBS Channel 3 news from Philadelphia covered this story on August 19. A representative of the Allentown Police, said in the television interview that the police have narrowed the suspects to a few and expect to make an arrest soon. He further explained that harassment and intimidation of City officials is illegal.

Council member Hoover told TV newsman Ken Stintson, "If I ever had the smallest idea to change my vote, which I never have had, this kind of mail would not intimidate me, it just makes me more committed."

Bradbury told TV newsman Ken Stintson, "This story is not about Allentown being a prejudiced place, it is the opposite. This hate mail from one or two people, is happening because Allentown citizens rejected intolerance and did not support the efforts of Citizens for Traditional Values to repeal the ordinance. The sender of the hate mail is angry that City Government and the people of Allentown support the rights of all people."

Anyone in the community who receives hate mail should put it in a paper bag (to preserve fingerprints) and turn it in to the police. "Dec. Ed. Ressler is in charge of the case. He has told me the FBI has been alerted and that the police are working on all the leads we and others have supplied. The police are taking this hate mail and hate email very seriously and I feel confident they will find out who is sending it and make appropriate arrests," said Bradbury. "While we have no idea who is sending this, we can say that when a hateful mean spirited campaign of misinformation is instigated to remove a minority group's basic rights, fringe elements frequently join in with harassment and threats or worse. When you claim an entire minority group is responsible for the majority of child abuse, as Citizens For Traditional Values did about the gay community in El Torero, it obviously encourages hatred and violence against that minority group. CTV should take responsibility for that."

QUOTES ON THE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE

..So again, congratulations to the people of Allentown. You elected five good members of your City Council (David M. Howells, Sr., Julio Guridy, Gail Hoover, Tom Burke, and Martin Velazquez III,) who voted to extend housing and employment protection to lesbian and gay people. You elected a good mayor, Roy Afflerbach, who signed that law. Then you did not listen to the group who says traditional family values should allow people to be fired from a job they are doing well and to be evicted from a home when they are good tenants. How can a group so full of hate say they represent traditional American values? You saw through that and did not sign their hateful petition!

Nadine R. Anderson, Part of a Letter to the Editor

"In the spirit of the liberal arts and the U.S. constitution, the Muhlenberg college community will tirelessly and staunchly defend the City Council, the Mayor and the bill. We at Muhlenberg support the freedom of all of Allentown's citizens to live and work peacefully and without discrimination."

Arthur Taylor, Former President of Muhlenberg College supporting the anti-discrimination ordinance. Morning Call, Other View, Wednesday, May 22, 2002

**SEE ADDITIONAL QUOTES
ON PAGES 5, 8, & E**

BIGOTRY OFTEN BACKFIRES

One of the things Citizens for Traditional Values (CTV) tried to do in their anti-rights effort, it was to sway the Latino population by printing virulently anti-gay rhetoric in the notoriously conservative local Spanish language newspaper El Torero. The publisher of El Torero, Ricardo Montero, also wrote some very anti-gay articles.

This was one of the big backfires for CTV. First, as far as morality goes, Ricardo Montero strikes out. He was recently convicted of sexual abuse and indecent assault charges. His efforts to arrange for topless photographs of a 16 year old girl, was front page news (though not in his paper). Add to the pornography charges a history of attacking in print the people of his own community, and needless to say Montero has very few Latino supporters.

Each time El Torero came out, 15,000 issues were circulated by the Morning Call in boxes on center city street corners. Just after the anti-discrimination ordinance was passed, two gay bashing articles came out in El Torero. The one by the President of CTV was easily spotted, even by those not fluent in Spanish. There is no area of El Torero for opposing points of view. The opinions of the paper are not balanced, but it was still circulated by the Morning Call.

PA-GALA got professional translations of the articles, which not only attacked gay people but also all the City Council people who voted for the ordinance, especially Julio Guridy, and brought them to a monthly meeting of the Latin Alliance. There were 50 people there, mostly leaders of the Latino Community, all of whom are dedicated to diversity. Julio Guridy was there. Julio told Liz Bradbury that he had actually written a special article about Latino issues at Montero's request, for that issue. Montero tossed it in favor of calling Julio names.

The Latino Community was 100% supportive against the CTV and Montero articles. Six leaders from the Latino community and six leaders from the GLBT community met with the management of the Morning Call to call for an end to the circulation of El Torero. The Morning Call had not actually seen translations of the articles until they read the ones PA-GALA provided. They had had no idea what they had been circulating.

Within a few weeks, the Morning Call wrote its own editorial against the hate language in El Torero. After some additional consideration, the Morning Call ended its circulation of El Torero. The Morning Call did not explain exactly why they had chosen to end the circulation.

A new Spanish language paper called La Nacion, has been encouraged locally by Latino leaders who seek more fair and balanced reporting.

Though El Torero may still be around, its circulation has been cut from 15,000 papers to stacks in the few stores.

It was the article by CTV that caught the eye of fair minded people in the community. At least in part, it was that article that started the chain of events that may completely end El Torero and give the Latino community a new and balanced paper.

Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.

RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs. Episcopal Church, 16th & Turner Atown. Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., P.O.Box 157 Trexlertown 18087 - 610-814-0530/0531

Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

Reading P-FLAG-610.488.7533or 670.8029

Safe Space-At Lehigh U. 610.758.3469

Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming, gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown 610.435.1587

Softball-(Women's) call Diamondz, 610.865.1028 T.O. - Theatre Outlet-29 Nth 9th St, Allentown, 610-820-9270.

Unity-26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417

UUCLV- Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

VFP - Valley Free Press 610.432.5449, liztrish@aol.com

VYH - Valley Youth House for emotionally troubled GLBT youth 610.432.6481

WDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Saturday 7:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 7:30 pm. 610-694-8100.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

FACT BINGO@ DIAMONZ SUNDAYS
MCC BLESSING OF RELATIONSHIPS
PLANNING MTG- THIRD MONDAYS
GLBT YOUTH GROUP
HAVEN- WEDNESDAYS
LV BEARS- 1ST SATURDAYS
GAY MEN-LV - 2ND SATURDAYS
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL- TUES
GLOSS TENNIS- SUNDAYS
GLOSS RACQUETBALL- TUES & SATS
MCC BOOK STUDY 2ND & 4TH TUES

SEPT 4

MCC BIBLE STUDY GROUP

SEPT 7- PFLAG MONROE

SEPT 7

STEVIE Z @ BRICK TAVERN

SEPT 8

FACT SUMMER GAMES

SEPT 8 - PFLAG BETHLEHEM

SEPT 8

MCC 9-11 OBSERVANCE

SEPT 9

GLSEN MEETING

SEPT 10 - MCC BOOK STUDY GRP

SEPT 13 - STEVIE Z @ MOOSE LOUNGE

SEPT 14 - STEVIE Z @ BRICK TAVERN

SEPT 15 - STEEL CHOIR CONCERT

SEPT 15 - OVOM

FILMING AT THEATER OUTLET

SEPT 17 - PFLAG READING

SEPT 19 - PFLAG POTTSVILLE

SEPT 21

STEVIE Z @ BRICK TAVERN

SEPT 27-29 - NATL PFLAG MTG

OCT 1

PFLAG ALLENTOWN

OCT 5 - PFLAG MONROE

OCT 12 - DEDICATION BALT. MCC

WITH REV. TROY PERRY

OCT 15 - PFLAG READING

OCT 17 - PFLAG POTTSVILLE

OCT 18-20

POCONOS DANCE WEEKEND

OCT 19

HAVEN FACILITATOR TRAINING

INFORMATION
SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

CALL TO CONFIRM

TO POST INFO: 610-432-

5449 EMAIL:

LIZTRISH@AOL.COM

POCONOS DANCE WEEKEND

Mark your calendars for the fall OUTDancing weekend, which will be held at the Pocono Manor resort, October 18-20. This event is organized by Stepping Out Studios in NYC. The event caters specifically to the GLBT community.

This is a great event, not only because of the quality of instruction, but because it is so close to the Lehigh Valley, only about 45 minutes away, which means that you can go for the day and not have to spend a lot for room and board. A Saturday day pass costs around \$80 and includes 5 dance workshops and an evening dance party. Meals are extra. (This information is passed is on to us by GLOSS. Please let GLOSS know if you plan to attend.)

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

MCCLV has been in continuous ministry to the Lehigh Valley since October 1984. Worship service is Sunday evenings at 6 p.m. at 424 Center St, Bethlehem. <www.mcclv.org>, <mcclvhighvalley@yahoo.com>, or 610-954-7775.

2002/2003 MCCLV Special Services Schedule
Sept. 8 - "9-11" Observance, Oct. 6 - MCCLV Anniversary Sunday, Nov. 3 - All Saints Day, Nov. 10 - Veteran's Day, Dec. 1 - World's AIDS Day Service, Dec. 1-24 - Advent (4 Sundays), Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Jan. 19 - Martin Luther King, Feb. 8 - National Freedom to Marry Day Community Ceremony, Mar. 5 - Ash Wednesday Service, Mar. 9 - Apr. 13 - Lent Services (6 weeks), Apr. 13 - Palm Sunday, Apr. 17 - Holy Thursday, Apr. 18 - Good Friday, Apr. 20 - Easter, Apr. 27 - Earth Day Observance, Jun. 8 - Pentecost, Jun. 22 - Pride Sunday

MCCLV WILL HOST a National Freedom to Marry Day event on Feb. 8, 2003. The event will consist of both a blessing of relationships, to which all couples of the GLBT community are welcome to participate, and a special same-sex marriage ceremony.

REV. ELDER TROY PERRY, will be in Baltimore on Sat., Oct. 12, to dedicate the



CIVIL UNION ANNOUNCEMENTS

To have your Vermont Civil Union listed here, or to get more information on how to get a Vermont Civil Union, email VFP at: <liztrish@aol.com>.

QUOTE

"So are deceit and intolerance 'traditional values'? If so then it's time to bury tradition and build a value system out of something new. Like wisdom, or common sense." **Allentown Times Political Cartoon** referring to the tactics of CTV, June, 21

new MCC Baltimore building. MCCLV is planning to participate in this event as a day-trip. To go, please contact Kevin <kevuhug@comcast.net>.

MCCLV'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS election: New members-- Donald Snyder and Kay Gilbreath, re-elected: Dawn Ross.

MCC PRIDEFEST PARTICIPATION was a great success! A VERY BIG thank you to all who were involved! Special thanks to coordinator Joe Canto and to Worship Team Leader Anthony Young for our first-ever worship service at Pridefest.

A BIBLE STUDY GROUP: starts Sept. 4 at 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Rich O'Donnell will lead the study at Kay Gilbreath's home in Bethlehem. To join the study please talk to Rich at the church or e-mail 2464338@msn.com.

BOOK STUDY GROUP starts Tuesday, September 10 & meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month for 4-6 sessions at Nadine's home (in Palmer Township). Next book: John Dominic Crossan's "Who Killed Jesus?": Exposing the Roots of Anti-Semitism in the Gospel Story of the Death of Jesus." for information email: infiltrators@forjesus@yahoo.com

A LETTER BY STEPHEN LIBBY

To the readers of the Valley Free Press: June is gay pride month, duh. Some people choose to make bold statements about their sexual orientation while others come out quietly to family and friends and do not feel the burn to wave the rainbow flag. Last year I saluted those who, just by being out to their inner circle, help advance the movement. However, without the tire-less efforts of our community leaders, I doubt much legislation would get passed to help ensure our equal rights. This month's point/counterpoint is an open letter to the editors, two people I admire and love.

Dear LizTrish (I call them), Let me first say how much I appreciate all the time and energy the two of you put into making this a friendlier and safer place to live. Your organization and determination is second to none. It is because of your efforts that we have an openly gay city council member and a gay friendly city council. Also, because of your tenacious lobbying and grassroots campaigning this council was able to amend the current protected classes to include sexual minorities and transgendered people. I think most people are unaware that your efforts are not restricted to the Lehigh Valley but also reach statewide as part of PA-GALA. You have been quoted in The Advocate and received numerous awards and commendations recognizing your dedication promoting awareness and tolerance and education on behalf of the LGBT community, which we know benefits all other communities, as LGBT are parts of all nationalities, religions etc.

I know you do not accomplish all of this on your own. It is another testament to your leadership skills that people want to help when you ask. You have much to be proud of on this 4th anniversary of the Valley Free Press, my favorite gay political rag. And personally, I sleep a little easier at night knowing the two of you are watching over our valley. xoxo, Stephen

What's That About?

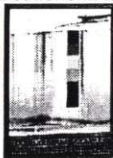


Readers write or email "What's That About?" editors with questions about gay and lesbian issues.



Dear What's That About, I saw what looked like a giant rainbow sticker on the sewage treatment plant in Bethlehem. Is this a pro-gay symbol, an anti-gay symbol...or what? Signed Amazed

Dear Amazed, at grave risk of looking like terrorists, we went over to the plant to check it out and take this picture. Plant Superintendent Mark Woods tells us the "color strip" is a guide, visible from the ground, to indicate what level the "dome" is that contains methane gas. He laughed.



Dear WTA: This issue's Planet Parenthood article mentions a store that seemed to be handing out anti-gay literature with every purchase. I want to know what store it is so I can avoid it. Are they still doing it? Signed GLBT Consumer

Dear GLBT-C: The store in the article was Green Acres on Mickley Rd. (off of MacArthur) in Whitehall. A VFP reporter went to check yesterday and they seem to have removed the anti-gay handouts. This no doubt occurred because Carolyn complained, which demonstrates what one voice can do. We will continue to monitor the place.

Dear WTA: Wait, let me understand this...the anti-gay referendum petitioners...they can do this whole thing again if they want to...when? Signed Incredulous

Dear Incred: Yep, the Allentown referendum process, which has several odd provisions, allows the petitioners to go right out tomorrow and start up this whole process again if they want to. In other cities where anti-civil rights groups have tried to remove the rights of GLBT people, statistics show that they are very likely to try again even if they lose.

How can we fight this? Well, first we need to raise additional money to be ready to finance any future fight. Second, PA-GALA needs everyone in the entire state who supports basic rights for all people, to be a member. There is no other organization that is fighting for and lobbying for the local rights of GLBT people in the Lehigh Valley. If PA-GALA had not worked on the passage of the ordinance, it would not have been passed, in fact it would not even have been introduced. If PA-GALA had not fought the petitions, they would have succeeded in getting that hateful referendum on the ballot. If you are grateful for the work PA-GALA did to maintain your rights, at least become a member, see page 8 to learn how.

MARCH WITH ED RENDELL IN PEN ARGYL LABOR DAY PARADE

Steve Black, acting chair of the Pen Argyl Area Democratic Committee and Political Director of PA-GALA, is seeking volunteers to march with Ed Rendell in the Rendell for Governor contingent in the Pen Argyl Labor Day Parade on Monday, Sept 2, 2002. Line up at 12:30 pm and the group should finish the parade by 2:30 pm. Call Steve: (610) 863-4961 or email smbblack@epix.net for details. Rendell T-shirts and signs will be supplied. (PA-GALA has endorsed Ed Rendell for Governor based on his strong support of gay & lesbian rights.)

FOR LEGAL INFO ON 2ND PARENT ADOPTION

For information on 2nd parent adoption or if your lawyer has questions call The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights in Philadelphia toll free at 1-866-LGBT-LAW.

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SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner



IT STILL APPLIES

This story was written two months ago. Then all heck broke loose with the petition.

The Citizens for Traditional Values has such a benign sounding name. But witch trials were a traditional value in Salem Massachusetts and human sacrifice was a traditional value in the Aztec world so I guess the name fits.

Because I believe everyday should be gay pride day anyway I think this is still timely.

WHAT PRIDE MEANS TO ME

June is a busy month to be Queer. This has a lot to do with all the Pride events. Between Philadelphia Pride, New York Pride, Washington Pride and the Lehigh Valley's Pride festival, parade and film festival gay folks can run themselves ragged.

My campy side likes June Pride because I get to see drag queens, dykes on bikes, and hear the dance version to every conceivable song known to man. For some friends I know from the bar this is the one time out of the year I get to see them in natural light.

My serious side likes it because I really feel empowered when I see all the men and women who are members of our tribe march down 5th Avenue, Locust Street or Hamilton Street. I know when I see the mass of Queerdom together I feel a sense of happiness and accomplishment.

And so my Chipmunk readers I wish you a very Happy Pride Month.

SECOND PARENT ADOPTION LEGAL!!!

Justice Stephen A. Zappala wrote in the opinion for the 6-0 Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling that ends the ban on same-sex second parent adoptions in PA: "There is no language in the Adoption Act precluding two unmarried same-sex partners (or unmarried heterosexual partners) from adopting a child who had no legal parents. It is therefore absurd to prohibit their adoptions merely because their children were either the biological or adopted children of one of the partners prior to the filing of the adoption petition."

The lower courts had declared two years ago that second parent adoption could only exist in PA when the second parent was legally married to the first parent. Since same sex couples cannot legal marry, the courts were saying that same-sex 2nd parent adoption could not be legal in PA. That lower court decision is now overturned by the PA Supreme Court. Adoption is the purview of individual states, so this is the final court decision.

Adoption, however, is not automatic. People who want to adopt must apply to their county court for approval. A judge must make a determination on whether adoption is in the best interest of the child. Pennsylvania joins approximately 20 or so other states that permit second parent adoptions. The children of same-sex couples can now be adopted by their second parent and qualify for a variety of legal benefits including health insurance, Social Security coverage, and the right to financial support from both parents. This was a decision anxiously awaited by no fewer than 10 Lehigh Valley couples whose dreams of giving their children the protection of two legal parents can now be realized. Frankly, the Court's ruling came as a thrilling surprise to most activists. Tears of joy were shed all over the state. When families and friends heard this wonderful news.

Congratulations to Christine Biancheria of Biancheria, Eriksen, Maliver & Angell; Sandra Edwards Gray of Pyfer & Reese; Stacey Sobel and Tiffany L. Palmer of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights; and Susan Frietsche and David S. Cohen of the Women's Law Project on the most significant win to date for gay and lesbian couples in Pennsylvania. The legal recognition of our families is essential in the fight for equality.



A VIEW FROM A DYKE

By Liz Bradbury

POLICE CHIEF SAYS NO MORE STINGS

Earlier this year Allentown Police Chief Steven Kuhn asked Trish and me, as PA-GALA representatives, for a meeting to learn about the concerns of the GLBT community. Reverend Beth Goudy also attended the meeting. Chief Kuhn made it very clear that hate crime against GLBT people would not be tolerated in Allentown. He asked us to alert the community to immediately report hate crime or harassment to his office.

Chief Kuhn asked us what the biggest concern was in the local GLBT community regarding police behavior. We explained that the biggest concern GLBT people have with the police is the stings in the Parkway that have been going on for many years. PA-GALA gets 2 or 3 calls a year from gay men who have been entrapped by police in the park.

For those who are unaware of the stings; in the past, police in plain clothes have entrapped gay men by suggesting encounters and then have arrested men for sexual assault if they went with the cop. More than one man has reported that he did nothing but was frightened into pleading guilty. In many of the cases guys told us that police chose men to sting, who seemed the least likely to contest charges. Police were reported to have said to the guy that if he didn't plead guilty he would go to jail for five years. But that if he paid a fine (\$1700) and pled guilty nothing would happen to him. Which then turned out to be untrue, since charges of sexual assault were still pressed.

It's important to consider that stings like this were very discriminatory. Only gay men were targeted. There were never stings of straight men by women cops. (Imagine what a sting like that would have been like and how many straight men would have been arrested.) These were completely victimless crimes that would not have happened if the cop had not suggested it. Consider also that the charge of assault was ridiculous since if the "encounter" had been genuine it would have been consensual. And finally stings like this were a colossal waste of police power, since often ten officers "assisted" in the arrest.

Clearly the reason for the stings was to collect fines and probably to harass gay men. On the other hand, people may wonder why these gay men in the park were so easily entrapped. Considering what I've been told by guys who called me to ask me to suggest a lawyer, many of those arrested had often made very bad decisions. Like following a guy they didn't know into some bushes, or pleading guilty to something they didn't do, or not getting the advice of a lawyer. Usually (but not always) when they called PA-GALA they had already signed papers to plead and it was too late for lawyers. Regardless, the police practice was obviously discriminatory even if the men who were entrapped made foolish decisions.

Times have changed, however. Chief Kuhn said the days of Parkway stings are over. He said that discriminatory stings of this sort were wrong and he assured us that there won't be undercover cops in the park anymore.

Of course, there is no excuse for inappropriate behavior in the park. Police cars and uniformed officers will still check the parks for anything illegal. People should make careful and intelligent decisions and stay out of the bushes. There's poison ivy in there anyway.

MCC TAPPED BY VET ADMINISTRATION

MCC, the predominantly gay Christian church with 300 congregations in 22 countries, has received recognition from the federal government to provide chaplains to the U.S. Veterans Administration. "This marks yet another positive step toward full equality for America's gay and lesbian citizens," said MCC founder (& Army vet) Rev. Troy Perry.

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TRISH'S COLUMN

By Patricia Sullivan

PETITIONERS ARRESTED IN DADE



The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has called on the attorneys general of every state facing an antigay ballot initiative, to launch investigations to determine whether the petition signatures supporting the efforts to deny rights to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people, were fraudulently obtained.

In Miami three arrests were just made in a probe of the controversial petition drive to repeal gay rights in Dade County Florida. A Special Prosecutor for the Polk County Attorney's Office is looking into allegations that petition drive organizers fraudulently obtained signatures on the petitions. Anthony Verdugo, 40, local chairman of the Christian Coalition and a board member of the antigay Take Back Miami-Dade Coalition and a 17 year old petitioner, were each charged with falsely swearing that they had witnessed someone sign a petition. A notary, 76 year old Ralph Patterson, was charged with illegally notarizing a petition. False swearing and unlawful use of a notary commission are each third degree felonies punishable by up to five years in prison. Other arrests are pending.

In Massachusetts, signature gatherers for a petition to ban same-sex marriage actually told voters they were signing a petition to ban sending horses to slaughterhouses. In Houston and other cities anti-rights petitioners collected signatures in gay bars by telling signers that the petition was in support of gay rights.

In Allentown petitioners seeking to remove housing, employment and public accommodation rights protections based upon sexual orientation and gender identify, failed to get the needed signatures for the referendum to be placed on the November ballot. The NGLTF noted the petition was disqualified after 600 signers of the petition sent declarations to city officials stating that they had been misled about the intent of the measure by signature gathers working for Citizens for Traditional Values.

Speaking about the recent arrests in Miami-Dade, Lorri L. Jean, the Task Force Executive Director said, "This most recent fraud discovery is part of a developing pattern across the country where the opponents of GLBT rights basically lie, cheat and steal to deceive the public into supporting them."

Representatives of Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Political Action (PA-GALA) agree that the deceptive and misleading tactics of petitioners must be stopped. But in Allentown, unlike other cities where people were victims of misleading tactics, PA-GALA developed a process to legally fight for fairness. Using its grassroots resources, PA-GALA informed the voting public about the intent of the referendum and provided a way for persons who had been misled to remove their names from the petitions. (To read more about this process on page D).

At this time in Allentown and other cities, it is up to county district attorneys and state attorneys general to press to investigate further legal issues and make arrests, if they see fit. Though this current referendum effort is over in Allentown, information gathered during this period may still be used in further legal action.

ADVOCATE ARTICLE FEATURES STEVE BLACK

A great article about Steve Black and PA-GALA appeared in the May 28th issue of the national gay news magazine, The Advocate. Steve was featured in, "Behind the Headlines." The title of the article was, "Better Living Here in Allentown" (a spin on Billy Joel's song). It highlighted the passage of the ordinance and the work Steve does in the Pen Argyl office of PA-GALA. A picture accompanied the article.

Last week a CBS Philadelphia News report showed the Advocate article and touted the fact that due to the passage of the ordinance national magazines are saying good things about Allentown and the Lehigh Valley. See it on-line at <Advocate.com>.

POP QUIZ

8

Indicate Male (M) or Female (F)

1. Rin Tin Tin (male character) was actually:
2. Toto (male character) was actually:
3. Asta (male character) was actually:
4. Lassie (female character) was actually:

5. Rin Tin Tin was really named:

- A. Rin Tin Tin B. Rommy C. Benny D. Nero

6. Toto was really named:

- A. Toto B. Terry C. Nikko D. Spike

7. Asta was really named:

- A. Asta B. Sharkey C. Sparkey D. Skippy

8. The first Lassie was really named:

- A. Lassie B. Lad C. Pal D. Timmy

9. Which of these movies featured scenes filmed in Dorney Park? A. Big B. Hairspray

- C. Manhattan D. WhereAngels Go Trouble Follows

10. "The Sissy Duckling" is a new children's book by

- A. Kate Clinton B. Harvey Fierstein
C. Rosie O'Donnell D. Richard Simmons

11. How many anti-gay referendum petitioners in Dade County Florida have been arrested (as of August 16) for petition fraud? A.1 B.2 C.3 D.4

12. In order to bring alleged fraud charges against the Florida petitioner who is head of the Christian Coalition, how many legal documents were used from signers who claimed improper conduct?

- A.1 B.2 C.3 D.4

13. How many legal documents claiming improper conduct was used to get their signature, have been turned into Allentown City Hall by local petition signers? A.279 B.421 C.604 D.833

1. M 2. F 3. M 4. M 5. A 6. B 7. D 8. C
9. B & D 10. B 11. C 12. A 13. D

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THE PUBLISHERS**

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA-GALA

Valley Free Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the LV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

To add your organization to this list, call 610-432-5449 or email VFP (liztrish@aol.com).

QUOTE #1

"No member organization of the World Organization of the Scout Movement should make any discriminatory policy against homosexuals (I) urge the National Officers of the Boy Scouts of America to reconsider its discriminatory policies." Tiemo Slodowy, "The Federation of German Scout Organizations (RDP) and the Union of German Girl Guide Association (RDP)"

QUOTE #2

"I believe this is a time for each of us to carefully evaluate our lives & make sure we have a necessary 'balance' in our own identity. Look at your financial records. Do they show your support of our community at the local and national levels? Do you support gay-friendly companies? Are you 'out' at work? Does your church support your gay identity? Is everything you are doing, supporting, saying - in concert with your own identity? If so - great, but if not - then what are YOU going to do about it? For we can only control ourselves, and the solution lies with EACH OF US."
--Stevie Z from his essay Freedom Isn't Free, about fighting the referendum.

QUOTE #3

"Here are nongay people who can't even take the harassment of living on a street called Gay, much less being gay. Wouldn't it be nice if the gay and lesbian community could simply petition to have themselves named the 'green apple community' and we could eliminate the harassment, intimidation and hatred that we experience on a daily basis."
-- Ohio gay activist Jim McCarthy after 19 residents of Gay Road in Montgomery County, Ohio, lobbied successfully to have their street name changed to Green Apple Road, to the Dayton Daily News, April 12.

SEE MORE QUOTES ON PAGE D

Distelfink[©] by Ruby Zebu Is this really 8/02 8 pica?.

Yeah, we know the type is is small but we put a lot of work into this, so you better read the whole darn thing.

WELL OK, WE DIDNT WORK TOO HARD ON THIS COMIC... BUT WE DID ON THE REST.

The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Free Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VFP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

STEEL CHOIR

On Sunday, September 15, a concert and the release celebration of the CD, *Carry It On*, by the Steel Choir of Bethlehem, will begin at 3:00pm in the Binney and Smith Gallery at the Banana Factory on 3rd St. in south Bethlehem. *Carry It On* is a musical celebration of the people and the Bethlehem Steel industry which built our nation. A second concert will be held in the Moravian Museum, Church and Heckewelder Sts., Sunday, September 22, at 3:00pm. The CD will be on sale at both these events for \$15.

The choir will sing traditional and new songs which were composed specifically for them by Dr. Ysaye Barnwell. Since 1979, Barnwell has performed with the internationally acclaimed a cappella quintet, Sweet Honey in the Rock. Cora Hook, story teller and ensemble member of Touchstone Theatre, will join the choir to weave a narrative throughout the performance.

The Steel Choir was founded in 1999 as part of Touchstone Theatre's Steel Festival: the Art of an Industry. It continues to perform under the direction of Beverly Morgan. The choir members are community singers who will be joined in concert by soloists Rebekah Graver, soprano, Deborah Leyshon, alto, Greg Oaten, tenor, Steve Derstine, baritone and Janice Derstine, pianist. For information call Beverly Morgan, 610-760-1759

QUOTE

"There are people who still don't believe that Liberace was gay. That Rock Hudson was gay. Until they hear it from your own lips: 'I'm gay,' they don't want to believe it. I remember talking to Rosie [O'Donnell] about it, when she was thinking about coming out, and she said: 'Well, everybody knows I'm gay. It's been in the tabloids.' And I said: 'No, Rosie. They don't. Believe me.'" - Ellen DeGeneres to the Providence [RI] Journal, April 28.

QUOTE

"Sometimes you have to repeat a message over and over until people 'get it.' I'm asking my GLBT friends and their enlightened allies to join me in repeating these three messages: Child sexual abuse is not a gay issue. Repressive systems never lead to responsible sexuality. All faith groups should learn from the GLBT communities."

The Rev. Troy D. Perry, Founder and Moderator of Metropolitan Community Churches writing about the Catholic Church child abuse scandal and contrasting lack of instances of abuse related to MCC.

MORE QUOTES ON THE ORDINANCE

"The conduct of the petitioners was dishonorable enough, but now, two members of City Council, Louis J. Hershman and David K. Bausch, are making matters worse. Mr. Hershman went so far as to circulate a memo suggesting that people who had their names removed committed some kind of perjury."

Morning Call Friday, July 5, 2002
Our View editorial, Municipal Government: Two on Allentown City Council are dragging out anti-rights petition flop

"I understand that for some people, condemning homosexuality is a matter of firmly held religious or cultural beliefs. But through their own words, it seems to me that some advocates of repealing the law have inadvertently made a great case for keeping it in place -- by demonstrating the depth of the hatred and prejudice facing gays and lesbians every day."

Bill White: From his Morning Call column, June 19, 2002

"2002 marks a milestone in Allentown civil rights history. The health of the community depends on and finds strength in tolerance, mutual respect, social justice and equal protection under the law."

Gail Hoover, reading the Mayor's Proclamation at the Pride Festival:

"Supposedly religious people pushed petitions to have the new law repealed. After I suggested a conflict with Jesus' message of tolerance in his parable, many letters reflected a puritanical approach."

"True evangelical Christians", said an e-mail letter..., "speak out against known sin, citing God's word as the source."

His letter was typical of the foes of the new law, although I got three times as many from those who embrace tolerance."

Paul Carpenter (Follow Up Column) Morning Call, Friday June 21, 2002

LEHIGH VALLEY PFLAG

The Local PFLAG (Parents and Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays) has several meeting locations in the area.

BETHLEHEM MEETINGS-- are held the second Sunday of each month starting at 3:00 p.m. The location is Northampton Community College (NCC) College Center Room 134. If you need directions check the website or call 610-967-5219. These meetings will move to a new location in Allentown in October, see further info below.

READING MEETINGS-- Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month starting at 6:30 pm. The location is the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County. (416 Franklin St.). For information or directions, call the church (610) 372-0928 or the helpline at 610-967-5219.

MONROE COUNTY MEETINGS-- Meetings are held first Saturday of the Month starting at 3:00 pm. Meetings will be held at the Northampton Community College Tannersville campus. For information call: (570) 620-1234, or e-mail: AMLee PFLAG@aol.com

POTTSVILLE MEETINGS-- Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month starting at 7:30pm. The location is the meeting room of the Schuylkill Community Education Council in the Rockwood Center on Rt. 61 between the Cressona Mall and Aldi's Foods.

PFLAG CALENDAR

CALENDAR ALERT

September 7, 2002--Monroe County Meeting
September 8, 2002--Bethlehem Meeting **LAST MEETING AT NCC**

September 17, 2002--Reading Meeting
September 19, 2002--Pottsville Meeting
September 27 to 29--National PFLAG Meeting.
October 1, 2002--Allentown Meeting **NEW LOCATION**

October 5, 2002--Monroe County Meeting
October 15, 2002--Reading Meeting
October 17, 2002--Pottsville Meeting

IMPORTANT MEETING CHANGE

BETHLEHEM -- ALLENTOWN MEETINGS change. Starting with the October Meeting PFLAG is moving from Northampton Community College to the Allentown First Presbyterian Church (Cedar Crest Blvd. and Tilghman St.). They will also be changing from Sunday afternoon to Monday evening, 7:00 to 9:00 pm. The First Presbyterian Church is easy to get to and has great parking. PFLAG was approached by a member of the congregation with the idea. The leaders of the church have approved and support the meeting. The Allentown location provides a better midpoint between Reading and Monroe County meetings, and several people had asked that the meetings be changed from Sunday to another day.

OVOM DOCUMENTARY **F**

SHOWN AT THEATRE OUTLET

The Valley premiere of Steve Libby & friend's new documentary HIV/AIDS: 20 Years Later was viewed by a sellout crowd at the Theatre Outlet on Saturday, July, 13. In the audience were Scott Laubner and his usual cast of characters, some of whom were interviewed for the film. Also represented were many of the AIDS agencies in the LV. If you missed it, look for an encore screening this fall.

Door prizes and a 50/50 raffle added to the enjoyment of the evening. The wine cheese reception after allowed those not familiar with his work, to view Shawn Patrick Mazzatta's art exhibit, Caution: Men at Work. Proceeds benefit One Vision, One Mission the next documentary, My Trans Mission, again featuring Shawn Bausher as the interviewer. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of 20 Years Later or volunteering your talent to OVOM please e-mail Steve at STL327@hotmail.com

Thanks again to the community for supporting OVOM's mission to promote awareness and tolerance of under-represented populations. One Vision, One Mission is the new name adopted by As If Productions as that name was already registered. The monies raised by OVOM will go toward producing future films and media projects.

LAST MINUTE NOTE FROM STEVE LIBBY

We just secured the Theatre Outlet for Sunday, September 15 to film our next project, My Trans Mission: The Talk Show. We have an interviewer and some interesting guests. What we need is an audience. So, come with questions in mind and be part of our mission to promote awareness and tolerance of the transgendered population. This is your opportunity to be the star you've always known you are. And to grab those 15 minutes Andy Warhol promised you. (if that went over your head, ask someone older to explain it). Anyway, we'll be shooting from noon until 6pm. Direct questions about the filming or RSVP to STL327@hotmail.com or just walk in that day. I hope you can join us for what is sure to be an educational and entertaining afternoon.

WHEW, THIS ISSUE OF THE VALLEY FREE PRESS, CONTAINS MORE THAN 80 ARTICLES.

AND WAS PRODUCED AS AN EXPANDED ISSUE TO CELEBRATE THE MANY RECENT VICTORIES OF THE GLBT COMMUNITY. IT THIS A GREAT ISSUE OR WHAT????